Diversification of crops in rain based areas

†1787 SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to encourage the farmers for the cultivation of non-seasonal vegetables crops, fruits, flowers and herbs under agriculture diversification scheme in the rain based agricultural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been asked to formulate time-bound scheme to turn the agriculture into lucrative profession in such areas; and

(d) the details of the schemes underway to turn the rain based agriculture into economically lucrative profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans under which, among other things, the farmers are being given assistance for taking up cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers medicinal and aromatic plants. This scheme is being implemented in all States & UTs in the Country Under this scheme assistance is also being extended to the farmers for constructing green houses, which facilitate them in taking up of non-seasonal cultivation of horticultural crops.

(c) State Government formulate Work Plans each year where they have been given the flexibility to take up programmes as per the priority and felt needs

(d) Under the Macro Management Scheme, there is a programme of National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPRA) wherein activities such as agro-forestry, agri-horticulture. Sivipasture are encouraged for improving the economic returns.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi